

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01325 170521Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /077 W
-----061568 170553Z /23

R 170454Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1162
INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 1325

DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W
MBABANE FOR OSARAC
NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SHUM, PINS, MI, US
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND AID TO MALAWI

REF: A. STATE 191384 (NOTAL); B. LILONGWE 0876

1. AS SURMISED BY DEPARTMENT IN PARA 5 REF A, WE ARE IN
ACCORD WITH YOUR UPBEAT ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION
IN MALAWI AND AGREE WITH GENERAL COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED IN
REF A PARAS 3 AND 4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT NOT ENOUGH TIME HAS
ELAPSED TO TEST PRESIDENT BANDA'S LONG TERM INTENTIONS
VIS-A-VIS HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT, AT THIS STAGE IN LIFE,
BANDA'S CHARACTER WILL NOT CHANGE. NEVERTHELESS, WE THINK
IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM POLITICALLY SHOULD HE
AT ANY TIME IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WISH TO INSTITUTE
"A NEW ROUND OF JAILINGS AND REPRESSION" BOTH FROM THE
STANDPOINT OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS.
ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT, WE THINK IT PROBABLE
THAT THE BRITISH REACTION TO THE GOAN EXPULSION AND
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PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLAIN-SPOKEN STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS
HAVE GIVEN HIM PAUSE.

2. FOR THE RECORD, WE WISH TO NOTE THAT ONLY A
HANDFUL OF ALIENS HAVE BEEN SUMMARILY DEPORTED IN THE
PAST YEAR AND THAT AN EXTENSIVE SECRET POLICE SYSTEM
DOES NOT EXIST IN THE COUNTRY. THE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH

WHICH HANDLES "POLITICAL" CASES HAS, IN FACT, BEEN CONSIDERABLY RESTRAINED SINCE THE DETENTION OF ITS FORMER CHIEF, FOCUS GWEDE. WHAT DOES EXIST IS A GENERAL POPULACE WHICH LOYALLY SUPPORTS THE PRESIDENT AND WHICH HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY CONDITIONED AND CONTINUOUSLY EXHORTED TO REPORT TO THE POLICE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS OR OUT OF THE ORDINARY OR IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW.

3. I RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM GOM SECRETARY TO TREASURY INVITING THE USG TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES IN EARLY NOVEMBER (PRECISE DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER) TO TAKE PART IN JOINT APPRAISAL OF QUOTE NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS - PHASE I UNQUOTE (NRDP). OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND DONOR AGENCIES BEING INVITED ARE THE UK, EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF), IDA, CIDA, ADB FUND AND UNDP. WE BELIEVE USG PARTICIPATION IN NRDP APPRAISAL WOULD BE SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY FOR USG TO ANALYZE LONG-TERM MALAWIAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND HOW USG PROGRAMS COULD FIT.

4. NRDP IS LONG-TERM UNDERTAKING TO COVER TWENTY YEARS. GOM DEVELOPMENT POLICY, ACCORDING TO GOM SUMMARY OF NRDP, IS TO GIVE "TOP PRIORITY TO RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AIMED AT SELF SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD STUFFS, INCREASING THE INCOME AND LIVING STANDARDS OF THE RURAL POPULATION AS WELL AS

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INCREASING EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS". DRAWN FROM FOUR REGIONAL LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS, NRDP IS AIMED AT BETTERING THE LOT OF A GREAT MAJORITY OF ORDINARY MALAWIANS.

5. ON JULY 21, IBRD REP JOHN PEBERDY CALLED ON US TO REVIEW IN A GENERAL WAY THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE NRDP. HE HIMSELF IS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED AND HOPES THAT AID WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRAM TOGETHER WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES. AFTER AN ADMITTEDLY CURSORY REVIEW, OUR INITIAL IMPRESSION OF NRDP IS ALSO VERY FAVORABLE. GOM HAS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY 80 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR PERIOD 1978-84. IT APPEARS TO BE ASSURED A FINANCING OF 65 MILLION DOLLARS, MOSTLY FROM IDA (27 MILLION DOLLARS) AND THE REST FROM EDF, THE UK, AND THE ADB.

6. WE WERE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE NRDP PROJECT FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ESTIMATED AT 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS (IN GRANT AID OR CHEAP CREDITS) WHICH WOULD SEEM TO TIE IN VERY NICELY WITH OUR BUNDA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE PROJECT. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE USG ACCEPT GOM INVITATION AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS APPRAISAL WITH THE THOUGHT THAT WE MIGHT

VERY WELL FIND CERTAIN PROJECTS WHICH WOULD WARRANT OUR ASSISTANCE. THIS WOULD SERVE AS INITIAL CONTACT RECOMMENDED IN PARA 4B OF REF A.

7. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN HELP FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY. STEVENSON

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